

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, June 13. 1706.

I Am loath to fall out about sharing of *Bear-skins*, and will not enter into the Debate, whether the King of *France* shall be Deposed or no; I wish the Gentleman that differs with me a little here, would be content to let us differ without being Angry, and would he do so, I am perswaded we shall both appear to mean the same thing.

I am sincerely desirous, and should be glad to see it, that the King of *France* and his greatness, was in the Power of the Confederates, and at their dispose; — and tho' I am of the opinion they would still leave him King of *France*, and that if they did not, they could never agree about the PARTITION, as I have already Noted, yet I readily agree with Mr. *Observer* in one thing; That bare restoring of Ravish'd Dominions is not a full Satisfaction; the Da-

mages, Havock, and Spoil made in those Countries, which remain to be accounted for.

And without doubt, such Compensation for the said excesses as can be made, or as the Confederates may think reasonable, is just to demand; but to whom shall these Satisfactions be made? To the dead no Satisfaction can be given, for Life admits of no Equivalent, all the Blood shed by the *French* Tyranny, must be accounted for to Divine Justice; Personal Restitution for the Ravages, and Devastations in the respective Countries can never be made, nor is the Fee Simple of all *France* able to make Reparation of Damages to Kingdoms, Provinces, Towns, and Families, ruin'd, and Injur'd by the voracious and barbarous Hands of the *French*.

Where then shall this Satisfaction be obtain'd? And to whom made? Should all the

the Confederates bring in a List of Damages, and the Interest upon them ; were all the Lands, Tenements, Goods, and Chattles of the King of *France*, and all his People, to be sold at the highest Purchase, they would not make it good.

To Depose the King, would be no manner of Satisfaction, for another Tyrant might Succeed ; to Dethrone the Government it self, and divide his Country, would be some National satisfaction, but no Personal Reparation of Injuries ; as to Deposing a Tyrant, *I am free of giving my Opinion of that*, I would have all Tyrants Depos'd ; but then you go upon another Foot, and you must restore the *French* Nation to their former Liberty, and leave them to Limit both their Crown and its Succession, and Erect such a Government as is most agreeable to the Publick Good, according to the *Native Right* and *Universal Custom* of all Nations in the World ; and to Abridge them of this Liberty, would be to Injure them ; for take the *French* as a Nation, Abstracted from the Tyranny and Ambition of their Prince, which they have been as we say, by Force drawn in to concur with ; they have done nothing to us, to justify our taking from them the Original Right of choosing their own Governours.

If therefore you will Depose the King of *France* as a Tyrant, you must leave his Subjects free, to choose what Government they will Erect for there own Safety, and that may protect them from doing, as well as receiving Injury.

I cannot doubt, that this, *tho' but a hint*, agrees with the meaning, both of Mr. *Observer* and his Countryman too, for this is the great Foundation, Liberty of Mankind, which all Nations have one time or other assum'd, and often help'd one another to Assume, and indeed are bound in Neighbourhood, as Branches of the General Community of Mankind ; to assist one another in.

And I believe I shall be readily agreed with too in this, that if the Tyrannical parts of the *French* Government, were Deposed, and the People of *France* restor'd to

their Ancient Liberties and Priviledges ; all the Apprehensions of their future Encroachments would dye at once ; for People restor'd to Liberty, or in general free Nations are very rarely known to Invade, encroach upon or Oppress their Neighbours.

'Tis the Ambition of Princes, the Avarice, the Pride, and the Vices of Tyrants, that push them upon Arbitrary Invasions, enlarging Dominions, and Robbing their Neighbours ; but Nations restor'd to Liberty, have never in the days of Christianity in the World, made such Excursions as these.

Thus the power of *France* may be secur'd from Injuring *EUROPE*, without either Deposing the Person, or Line of their Kings ; depose the Tyrant and set the People free, they will be safe Neighbours enough ; so the Arbitrary Power of encroaching Tyranny, might have been reduc'd in *England*, without Deposing the late King *James*, had he thought fit to have born the Operation.

I cannot but allow therefore, that pulling down the Tyrannick Authority of the *French* Government, and restoring the Subjects to their lost Liberty, would be a glorious Issue of this War ; and the most effectual security to the Peace I speak of, and this therefore is included in what I mean, by reducing the Exorbitant Power of *France*.

As for pulling down the Man, and dividing his Kingdom, I see no need for it, I see no Advantage by it, and I foresee it would set us altogether by the Ears, to attempt it ; for new Jealousies, new Disputes, new Clashings of Interest, about Barriers, Securities, and the like ; would arise, to the great Danger of that mutual Harmony, which is now the Life of the Confederacy.

I cannot but observe, how this is confirm'd by a Note ; I find in one of our News-Papers, from the *Hague* ; viz. ' That the Duke of *Marlborough* had Notifi'd to the States, that his Mistress the Queen of *England*, would not put Garrisons of her own Troops into any of the Towns in *Flanders* ; as being content with a good Barrier

• Barrier for them, which is a Barrier for
• *England*, or to that purpose, and he
• adds ; ' That the *Dutch* are exceedingly
• pleas'd and satisfi'd with this Declaration.
• *Daily-Courant*, No. 1295, Implying, *as I*
think is very plain ; That if 'the Allies should
imagine, we design'd to keep the Possession
of any thing we obtain'd in *Flanders* as
our own, they would be very uneasie, &c.
—To say no more ;

I hope I am not Arrogant in saying from
hence, that the Jealousie of separate Go-
vernments, and States, would be incompat-
ible with a Division of the *French* Monar-
chy.

But the freedom of the *French* Nation,
and of all Nations in the World, would be
not their safety only, but ours too ; Since Li-
berty is a certain preservative of Peace, and
only such Nations as are Slaves to the Ty-
ranny and Pride of others, are made use
of to crush and reduce their Neighbours ;
the Nature of the thing concurs in it, Liber-
ty is the End of Peace, and Peace is the
Life of Liberty.

These are pretty Speculations, and this
a fine pleasing diverting Subject, a thing
quite new in the World, that we can talk of
reducing the *French* Power, as of a thing
in view ; as if a thing not so crowded with
Difficulties as usual ; that a Descent upon
France, now seems no such impracticable

thing as it has been, and the Confection
of the *French*, at the Prospect of a Storm
impending, is very visible from the Ill Con-
dition they are in to Oppose it ; that the
remote designs of the *French* in *Italy*, and
Spain, have so weaken'd his hands, that he
finds himself struggling with Difficulties at
home, in their Prospect Insurmountable, and
which threaten him with something fatal,
even to the being of his Government.

If this had been the Consequence of one
overthrow in the *Netherlands*, what may
we yet find him reduc'd to by the End of
this Glorious Campaign ? And what a Peace
may we not hope for, from the Issue of such
a powerful Impression, as the Confederates
are yet likely to make before this Summer
be over ?

I cannot omit to add here, that there are
Oppressions upon Trade to be taken off
by the Advantages of this Victory, and
that when ever a firm and Solid Peace, shall
terminate this destructive War, perhaps
some Doors of Commerce may be unlock'd,
which the *French* have shut up by heavy Du-
ties and Impositions, equally to Prohibiti-
ons, to the Injury of our Woollen Manu-
facture, and which if restor'd, may help to
make us some amends for the vast Expence
of a tedious War, and which I doubt not
our Governours will insist upon, with more
Success than at the Peace of *Ryswick*.]

MISCELLANEA.

I Have all along maintain'd so much Cha-
rity for our Friends at home, as not to
think there could be any thing left here so
Unnatural ; I mean of an *Englishman*, as
not to be sincerely pleas'd, with the Glo-
rious Success of the Confederate Arms a-
gainst the *French*, — And 'tis not with-
out some horror, that I observe my self
to be mistaken, and that there are a Party of
Men, who confess themselves Chagrin, or
at least do not at all rejoice, at the
general Felicity.

I shall not renew the Sence of their In-

gratitude to God, and disregard to their
Country, by Exposing their foolish Excur-
sions upon this Subject, as I could do, be-
cause I think Victory is a Recompence for
all their Follies ; but the following Letter
having been sent by an unknown hand, I in-
sert it rather for the sake of my short An-
swer to it, than any thing material in it.

S I R,
THERE is a certain Person in N—
—street, who very much endeavours
to discourage Her Majesty's Subjects, by en-
ter

maintaining several of the Non-juring Ministers, who of late are grown to so great a height, that they do meet in great Numbers, striving to foment Animosities among Her Majesty's Subjects, by contradicting the good Success of Her Majesty's Forces, in the Spanish Netherlands—and falsely accusing several of Her Majesty's Ministers of State, and are very Inveterate against the Protestant Interest. Pray let me have your Opinion of these sort of Persons in your next Review, what means ought to be us'd with such turbulent sort of Persons, to put a stop to their Malicious Reports.

Yours,

May 29.
1706.

J. D.

My Answer to this is — *Let them alone*, condemn them, they are not worth Notice; do but Conquer Abroad, and these People will decay in force, and decrease in number, in proportion to the falling of their Friends abroad; Jacobitism at home, and French Power abroad, are the same things, and must rise and fall one with another.

But I cannot but Repeat it, as I have often; that a Non-juror may be an honest Man; and meerly as such, I have a large Charity for him, suspecting his Judgment more than his honesty; but our Danger at home, is from those that have bent their Consciences down to their Interest, openly sworn to the Government, secretly Vow'd its Subversion, and act against its Interest; — These are such, of whom we have a Noted Instance in Coventry, where a certain distinguish'd Gentleman, distinguishing upon the late Subject of Victory, said, *it was good News for a Nation, but bad for a Church*; a very Modern as well as Malicious Suggestion, as if the good of the Nation, and the good of the Church were different things; but of this by it self.

by the greatest Philosophers of this Age; together with several Discourses read before the Royal Society, for the Advancement of Physical and Mathematical Knowledge. Printed for Jeremy Wake, at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-Yard, John Senex, and Charles Price, next the Fleece Tavern in Cornhill.

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